

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

generation means for generating bi-directional reference relationship information representing a correlation between design information used for a design operation, and geometry data that is obtained by the design operation;

storage means for storing said reference relationship information generated by said generation means; and

display means for employing said reference relationship information stored in said storage means to display linking information indicating the fact that a reference relationship is established between said design information and said geometry data; and

means for obtaining said design information from said geometry data and for obtaining said geometry data from said design information, using said linking information.

2. (Original) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said design information, for which said reference relationship information is generated by said generation means, is at least one of a document, a graphical representation and a table.

3. (Original) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said geometry data, for which said reference relationship information is generated by said generation means, is data for a part, or for a portion that is a constituent element of said part.

4. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said display means displays said linking information indicating information representing the fact that said reference relationship is established between said design information and said geometry data, in association with an element of said design information or said geometry data.

5-8. (Cancelled).

9. (Currently Amended) A design support system comprising:

a digital document related module for storing a digital document that includes design information or background information used for a design operation;

a geometry data related module for storing geometry data designed using said design operation; and

a reference relationship related module for generating bi-directional reference relationship information representing a correlation between a predetermined digital document stored by said digital document related module and predetermined geometry data stored by said geometry data related module, wherein said reference relationship related module establishes a reference from digital document to geometry data and/or a reference from geometry data to digital document;

wherein the said digital document related module calls and displays said stored digital document, and adds and displays, to said digital document, reference relationship information that is generated by said reference relationship related module as a link to reference target geometry data and wherein said geometry data related module calls and displays said stored

geometry data, and adds and displays, to an element of said geometry data, reference relationship information that is generated by said reference relationship related module, as a link to a digital document.

10-12. (Cancelled).

13. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer program logic recorded thereon for enabling a computer to support a user's design operation, the computer program logic comprising:

generation means for enabling the computer to generate bi-directional reference relationship information that represents a correlation between design information used for the design operation and geometry data that is obtained by said design operation; and

displaying means for enabling the computer to display said design information and/or said geometry data while adding, to an element of said design information and/or of said geometry data, linking information indicating the fact that a reference relationship is established between said design information and said geometry data; and

means for obtaining said design information from said geometry data and for obtaining said geometry data from said design information, using said linking information.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer program logic recorded thereon for enabling a computer to support a user's design operation, the computer program logic comprising:

geometry data displaying means for enabling the computer to display geometry data that is designed;

generation means for enabling the computer to generate bi-directional reference relationship information that represents a reference relationship between said geometry data and a digital document on which the determination of said geometry data is based; and

embedding and displaying means for enabling the computer to embed and display, in an element of said geometry data displayed by said geometry data displaying means, the linking information of a digital document that is a reference target, based on said reference relationship information generated by said generation means; and

designation recognition means for enabling the computer to recognize that a user has designated said element including the linking information that is embedded and displayed by said embedding and displaying means; and

reference target display means for enabling the computer to display, after the designation is recognized by said designation recognition means, said digital document, based on said linking information included in said recognized element and said reference relationship information;

wherein, when multiple digital documents are present as the reference target, said reference target display means enables the computer to display a list of said multiple digital documents; and wherein, when it is recognized that a specific digital document on said list has been designated, said reference target display means enables the computer to display detailed information for said specific digital document.

15-20. (Cancelled).

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